

*What Is Claimed Is:*

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide fragment of SEQ ID NO:X or a polynucleotide fragment of the cDNA sequence contained in Clone ID NO:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X;

(b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:Y or a polypeptide fragment encoded by the cDNA sequence contained in cDNA Clone ID NO:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X;

(c) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide fragment of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:X or a polypeptide fragment encoded by the cDNA sequence contained in cDNA Clone ID NO:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X;

(d) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide domain of SEQ ID NO:Y or a polypeptide domain encoded by the cDNA sequence contained in cDNA Clone ID NO:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X;

(e) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide epitope of SEQ ID NO:Y or a polypeptide epitope encoded by the cDNA sequence contained in cDNA Clone ID NO:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X;

(f) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:Y or the cDNA sequence contained in cDNA Clone ID NO:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X, having biological activity;

(g) a polynucleotide which is a variant of SEQ ID NO:X;

(h) a polynucleotide which is an allelic variant of SEQ ID NO:X;

(i) a polynucleotide which encodes a species homologue of the SEQ ID NO:Y;

(j) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to any one of the polynucleotides specified in (a)-(i), wherein said polynucleotide does not hybridize under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence of only A residues or of only T residues.

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2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide fragment comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein.

3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide fragment comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:Y or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA sequence contained in cDNA Clone ID NO:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X.

4. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide fragment comprises the entire nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:X or the cDNA sequence contained in cDNA Clone ID NO:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X.

5. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises sequential nucleotide deletions from either the C-terminus or the N-terminus.

6. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 3, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises sequential nucleotide deletions from either the C-terminus or the N-terminus.

7. A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

8. A method of making a recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

9. A recombinant host cell produced by the method of claim 8.

10. The recombinant host cell of claim 9 comprising vector sequences.

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16. The polypeptide produced by claim 15.

17. A method for preventing, treating, or ameliorating a medical condition, comprising administering to a mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 11 or the polynucleotide of claim 1.

18. A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject comprising:

(a) determining the presence or absence of a mutation in the polynucleotide of claim 1; and

(b) diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition based on the presence or absence of said mutation.

19. A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject comprising:

(a) determining the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide of claim 11 in a biological sample; and

(b) diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition based on the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide.

20. A method for identifying a binding partner to the polypeptide of claim 11 comprising:

(a) contacting the polypeptide of claim 11 with a binding partner; and

(b) determining whether the binding partner effects an activity of the polypeptide.

21. The gene corresponding to the cDNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:Y.

22. A method of identifying an activity in a biological assay, wherein the method comprises:

(a) expressing SEQ ID NO:X in a cell;

- (b) isolating the supernatant;
- (c) detecting an activity in a biological assay; and
- (d) identifying the protein in the supernatant having the activity.

23. The product produced by the method of claim 20.

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